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News Release



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SMALL GRAIN - SEPTEMBER 2010 COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Growing conditions in Colorado were excellent for small grains in 2010 according to the USDA, NASS Colorado Field Office. Moisture received in the fall of 2009 established very good stands of winter wheat before dormancy. After a mild winter, abundant spring moisture arrived to boost growth in winter wheat and the other spring planted grains. Mild temperatures in late spring and early summer were very favorable for grain production in most growing areas of the State.

The final 2010 **all wheat** production for Colorado, at 108.2 million bushels, was nearly 8 percent higher than the production attained the previous year and the largest wheat crop in Colorado since 1985. **Winter wheat** production was estimated at 105.8 million bushels, 8 percent higher than last year's crop of 98.0 million bushels. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 2.35 million acres, down from 2.45 million acres harvested last year. The average yield per acre for this year's crop was 45.0 bushels, 5.0 bushels above last year and a new record high for Colorado, overtaking the 43.0 bushels per acre set in 1999. The area seeded last fall for this year's crop was estimated at 2.45 million acres. This year's **spring wheat** crop was estimated at 2.48 million bushels, down 5 percent from last year's crop. The average yield of 92.0 bushels per acre was 2.0 bushels above last year and a new record high as well from 90 bushels per acre first set in 2002. The area harvested for grain was set at 27,000 acres this year, down from 29,000 harvested in 2009. Producers seeded 28,000 acres to spring wheat compared with 30,000 last year.

Colorado's **barley** production in 2010 was estimated at 8.38 million bushels, down 19 percent from a year ago. The average yield per acre, at 133.0 bushels, was down 2.0 bushels from last year. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 63,000 acres, down from 77,000 acres in 2009. Production of **oats** in 2010 totaled 585,000 bushels, equal to the production attained last year. Average yield was placed at 65.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from last year's results along with the area harvested for grain at 9,000 acres. Acres seeded to oats totaled 55,000 in 2010, down 5,000 acres from 2009.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

All wheat production totaled 2.22 billion bushels in 2010, down 2 percent from the August forecast but up slightly from 2009. Grain area is 47.7 million acres, down 4 percent from last year. The United States yield is a record high 46.7 bushels per acre, 2.3 bushels higher than last year and 1.8 bushels higher than the previous record set in 2008. The levels of production and changes from last year by type are: winter wheat, 1.49 billion bushels, down 3 percent; other spring wheat, 627 million bushels, up 7 percent; Durum wheat, 111 million bushels, up 2 percent.

Oat production is estimated at a record low 81.9 million bushels, 6 percent below the August forecast and down 12 percent from last year. Yield is estimated at 64.6 bushels per acre, down 1.7 bushels from the last forecast and down 2.9 bushels from the previous year. Compared with last year, yields decreased or stayed the same for most States, with the exception of Michigan, Texas, and several States in the Northwest. Harvested area, at 1.27 million acres, is 4 percent below August and 8 percent below last year. This is the smallest acreage harvested for grain on record, continuing a steady downward trend.

Barley production is estimated at 182 million bushels, down 1 percent from the August 1 forecast and 20 percent below 2009. Average yield per acre, at 73.6 bushels, is up 1.3 bushels from August and 0.6 bushel from last year and is the highest yield on record since estimates began in 1866. Producers seeded 2.87 million acres in 2010, down 19 percent from last year. This is the lowest planted acreage on record. Harvested area, at 2.47 million acres, is down 3 percent from the August 1 forecast and down 21 percent from 2009, and the lowest level since 1882.